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It may be noted that Dembowski, Schiaparelli and Engelmann observed with small telescopes, of 7½ and 8 inches aperture, and that the star must have been very difficult for them. Dembowski did not measure the distance, and estimated it on one night only. Schiaparelli's largest position-angle differs 17°.8 from his smallest, and Engelmann's largest 30°.7 from his smallest. These discordances bear witness to the difficulty of the star for these observers, and may account for the magnitude of some of the residuals given above.

It is evident that no reliable system of elements for this star can now be obtained. The necessary data for the determination of the orbit does not exist. It will be necessary to wait, at least, until the star becomes measurable again. The elements above are given merely to show that the long period of apparent fixity of the components and their present closeness or singleness are not incompatible, but that they find a ready explanation in the binary character of the star. W. J. Hussey.

May 24, 1898.

New Elements of Comet *b* 1898, (Perrine).

From my observations of March 21st, April 8th, and April 22d, I have computed the following elements of this comet:—

$$\begin{array}{rl} T = & 1898 \text{ March } 17.37195 \text{ Gr. M. T.} \\ \left.\begin{array}{r} \omega = \\ \Omega = \\ i = \end{array} \begin{array}{rrr} 47^\circ & 37' & 6''.2 \\ 262 & 33 & 5\ .7 \\ 72 & 26 & 56\ .1 \end{array}\right\} & \begin{array}{l} \text{Ecliptic and Mean} \\ \text{Equinox of 1898.0.} \end{array} \\ \log q = & 0.040916 \end{array}$$

$$\text{O—C: } \Delta\lambda' \cos\beta' = -4''.2, \quad \Delta\beta' = +12''.4$$

From the same observations I also computed three other systems of elements, using different values of the ratio of the curtate distances. The four systems of elements are nearly the same. The residuals given above cannot be materially improved; their ratio may be changed, but the sum of their squares cannot be sensibly diminished. A careful examination of the data does not reveal any error to which the magnitude of the residuals may be attributed. These circumstances, taken in connection with the fact that the comet has a well-defined nucleus, making accurate observations of it comparatively easy, lead to the conclusion that the true elements of the orbit are not parabolic. W. J. Hussey.

April 28, 1898.